

Prices of food items

725. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the prices of food items including vegetables, especially onions and tomatoes, have risen abnormally which are beyond the reach of the common people;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the specific reasons for the increase; and

(c) the action Government has taken to curb the price rise along with the action taken against the hoarders and the result achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Yes. Government is aware of the prices of food items including vegetables, especially onions and tomatoes.

All India Daily Average Retail Prices of 22 essential food items including vegetables, onions and tomatoes during the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below). Prices of food items are *inter-alia* affected by mismatch in demand and supply, shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions and seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing, etc.

(c) Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which, *inter-alia*, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import duty and export management through instruments like Minimum Export Price, export restrictions, etc. to regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits and advising States for effective action against hoarders & black marketers. Also appropriate Minimum Support Price are promulgated to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), etc. for increasing

agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing scheme "Operation Greens" for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain which, *inter alia*, has the objective of price stabilization for producers and consumers through production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.

Government, on 29 September 2019, imposed stock limits on onion traders across the country - 100 quintals on retail traders and 500 quintals on wholesale traders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Further, Government of India has urged State Governments to hold regular meetings with the traders of Onions at State and District level to prevent hoarding, speculative trading and profiteering, unfair and illegal trade practices like cartelling, etc.

Statement

*All India yearly average retail prices of 22 essential food items monitored by
Department of Consumer Affairs*

(Unit: in ₹/kg.)

Year/Commodity	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Till 13.11.2019)
1	2	3	4	5
Rice	27.32	29.23	30.05	31.38
Wheat	23.57	23.90	24.20	26.60
Atta (Wheat)	25.16	26.24	26.43	28.12
Gram Dal	90.78	87.28	66.47	65.89
Tur/Arhar Dal	131.72	84.02	71.07	80.55
Urad Dal	136.95	92.35	70.83	74.37
Moong Dal	94.55	77.57	73.46	80.10
Masoor Dal	82.75	70.32	61.29	62.61
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	130.99	131.00	125.79	129.15

1	2	3	4	5
Mustard Oil (Packed)	109.47	106.98	106.16	109.28
Vanaspati (Packed)	74.40	77.71	80.32	80.15
Soya Oil (Packed)	82.61	85.21	89.34	92.09
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	95.11	93.10	96.28	99.45
Palm Oil (Packed)	68.58	70.37	76.68	75.53
Potato	19.28	14.94	19.02	17.93
Onion	16.79	22.41	23.64	24.68
Tomato	26.01	32.32	21.82	31.02
Sugar	38.62	42.63	38.92	38.56
Gur	42.02	44.72	43.11	43.93
Milk (₹/ltr.)	39.96	41.58	42.31	43.57
Tea Loose	199.02	202.76	209.19	211.84
Salt Pack (Iodised)	14.98	15.11	15.22	15.37

Source: State Civil Supplies Deptt.

Power of Central Consumer Protection Authority

726. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the CCPA is empowered to imprison manufacturers or service providers for false or misleading advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), draft rules on CCPA under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 have been prepared and uploaded on the Department's website for stakeholders' consultation.